

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:15 p.m. in the school's Aldo Rossi Field House. In his remarks, he referred to Katie Harman, Miss America 2002; Mayor Vera Katz of Portland; Charles J. Swindells, U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand; John V. Harker, president and chief executive officer, InFocus Corp.; Representative Greg Walden of Oregon; and Sfc. Nathan Ross Chapman, USA, who was killed January 4 by hostile fire in Afghanistan.

### **Remarks Following a Meeting With the Economic Team and the Federal Reserve Board Chairman and an Exchange With Reporters**

*January 7, 2002*

**The President.** I want to thank Chairman Greenspan for coming. He's here to offer his independent advice and counsel about the state of our economy. I want to thank my economic team for keeping me abreast of what we're learning during our Christmas break. I look forward to a substantive discussion about how to wisely put policy in place that will help this economy recover.

I'm—we're making good progress in winning the war in Afghanistan, and we've got to make good progress about helping people find work. The cornerstone of any good policy is going to be to take care of—help people help themselves, and take care of those who may have lost their job as a result of 9/11. But always remember, the most important thing for those who have lost their job is to be able to find work. And so the question I'm going to ask, and the question I hope Congress asks, is, how best to create jobs? What can you do to encourage economic growth so that people who want to work can find work?

I'm optimistic that 2002 is going to be a better year than 2001. And we will discuss ways here to make—to figure out how Government can make that happen. One thing I will do, after the course of these discussions and some discussions later on this week, will put in my budget an economic stimulus package.

And speaking of that, I hope that when Congress comes back they will have listened to their constituents and that Congress will realize that America, like me, is tired of par-

tisan bickering, that we ought to come together, we ought to unify around some sensible policy and not try to play politics with tax relief or, for that matter, economic stimulus packages.

I'll be glad to answer a few questions. Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

### **National Priorities and the Federal Budget**

**Q.** Mr. President, can you increase funding for the military and homeland security without dipping into the Social Security and Medicare accounts? And Chairman Greenspan, if I could—

**The President.** Well, wait. I promised him that he could come. He's an independent soul, and he can have a press conference elsewhere. But one of the things we're not going to do is drag the Chairman into a press conference. Otherwise, he won't come back—[laughter]—to the White House.

**Q.** I'm sure he would—

**The President.** Well, you can find him at his place of business. Sorry to tell you how to do—it's a new year. [Laughter] I plan to be much more assertive with the press.

**Q.** [Inaudible]—going to ask him if he thought the recession was over, that's all.

**The President.** Okay. I said to the American people that this Nation might have to run deficits in time of war, in times of a national emergency, or in times of a recession. And we're still in all three. We had a national emergency; we're trying to win a war; and we're in a recession. So I have no problem figuring out ways to win the war, figuring out ways to protect the homeland—and those will be the priorities of my budget—and at the same time—and spending the money necessary to do both—and at the same time, recognizing that we may not balance the budget for this year.

It makes sense to spend money necessary to win the war; it makes sense to spend money necessary to protect the homeland. And we're in a recession. There are some talk about raising taxes. That would be a disaster, to raise taxes in the midst of a recession. Even—I think you'll find that to be—most economists agree with that point of view. Certainly, if they're fair about it, they will say that.

And so I—as I said out there, somebody must be reading a different kind of economics textbook here in Washington. And most of the people that I spoke to in California and Oregon understood that we shouldn't be raising taxes in a recession.

Yes.

### **Economic Stimulus Package**

**Q.** Mr. President, given that there was real progress on a stimulus package in December—[inaudible]—will your package, your proposal take effect more quickly than the one you proposed in December? And in addition to that, do you think, in the meantime, further interest rate cuts might be a way to provide an immediate boost?

**The President.** Well, first in terms of monetary policy, I'll leave that in the hands of our Chairman, Chairman Greenspan. He's done a fabulous job in running the Federal Reserve. And for that, America should be grateful.

Secondly, we did make very good progress on an economic stimulus package. We had a bill come out of the House of Representatives, and there was a bill that could have passed the United States Senate. There was enough votes, had the bill been brought up on the floor, that it would have passed. It took good features from the Republican point of view; it took good features from the Democrat point of view. We brought it together and made a very good package. That's pretty darn good progress.

Except, along the way, there was an attitude that said, "Well, maybe we don't need a package." I happen to believe we do need one, and there was a good one that could have passed.

Stretch. I mean, Little Stretch [David Gregory, NBC News]. [Laughter]

**Q.** Thank you for that. [Laughter]

**The President.** That's your new name, by the way.

**Q.** Oh, it is? Okay, good. Thank you.

**The President.** It's a new year.

**Q.** [Inaudible]—new year. Why does everything have to be so black and white? Is there not room to maybe phase in the tax cut in the out-years more slowly to protect the Government's bottom line—don't start laughing yet. And the second thing is, what

will you say as elements of a new stimulus package? Do you think there's a way to break this logjam?

**The President.** Well, first of all, the logjam was broken in December of this year. Republicans and Democrats realized it was time to act. We came together, and something would have passed the Senate. In terms of finding a solution that bridged good ideas from both parties, that's happened.

And your first question was, Little Stretch?

### **Taxes and Economic Recovery**

**Q.** Why does it have to be so black and white on the issue of raising taxes? Couldn't you—

**The President.** Because a tax cut is part of the prescription for economic recovery. By reducing taxes at a time when our economy was slowing down, the Congress, working with the administration, did the absolute right thing to provide a stimulus. And to change in the midst of the phasing-in of the tax relief plan would send the absolute wrong signal to the economy. It would say we weren't real about it; we weren't serious about tax relief. Tax relief is a part of the economic recovery plan.

Listen, thank you all very much—yes, a couple more. It's a new spirit.

**Q.** Which one?

**The President.** You're after Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters], I promise.

### **Situation in South Asia**

**Q.** Does it appear that war now has been averted between India and Pakistan, and has Pakistan done enough to crack down on terrorists?

**The President.** I think it's very important for President Musharraf to make a clear statement to the world that he intends to crack down on terror. And I believe if he does that and continues to do what he's doing, it will provide the—it will provide relief, pressure relief, on a situation that's still serious. I don't believe the situation is defused yet. But I do believe there is a way to do so. And we're working hard to convince both the Indians and the Pakis there's a way to deal with their problems without going to war.

### **Secret Service Agent**

**Q.** Mr. President, during the holidays you stood by your Secret Service agent. And American Airlines has come out with a new statement today saying that he was bitter and hostile. What are your thoughts about the situation with your Arab-American agent now as it pertains to him trying to—

**The President.** Well, I know there's an investigation going on, and I look forward to see the findings. But as I said, if he was mistreated because of his ethnicity, I'm going to be plenty hot—that means angry. And I know the man. I am most appreciative of his service to me and my wife. He is an honorable fellow. But I don't know enough about the details of this particular incident, but I know there's an investigation going on, and I look forward to seeing it. I would be surprised if he was hostile. But I wasn't there, so it's hard for me to comment on something which I did not see.

Listen, thank you all for giving me a chance to visit with you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:33 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan.

### **Executive Order 13252—Exclusions From the Federal Labor-Management Relations Program**

*January 7, 2002*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 7103(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code, and in order to exempt certain subdivisions of the Department of Justice from coverage under the Federal Labor-Management Relations Program, it is hereby ordered as follows:

**Section 1. Determinations.** The subdivisions of the Department of Justice set forth in section 2 of this order are hereby determined to have as a primary function intelligence, counterintelligence, investigative, or national security work. It is further determined that chapter 71 of title 5, United States Code, cannot be applied to these sub-

divisions in a manner consistent with national security requirements and considerations.

**Sec. 2. Amendment of Executive Order 12171.** Executive Order 12171 of November 19, 1979, as amended, is further amended by adding to the end of section 1–209 the following new subsections:

- “(c) United States Attorneys’ Offices.
- (d) Criminal Division.
- (e) INTERPOL—U.S. National Central Bureau.
- (f) National Drug Intelligence Center.
- (g) Office of Intelligence Policy and Review.”

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
January 7, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 10, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on January 11.

### **Remarks on Signing the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 in Hamilton, Ohio**

*January 8, 2002*

**The President.** Thank you all very much.

**Audience members.** U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

**The President.** Okay. I know you all are anxious to get back to class. [Laughter] So please be seated. [Laughter] Thank you for such a warm welcome. It's great to be in the home of the Big Blue, Hamilton High School. I want to thank you all for coming. I particularly want to thank my friend the Governor of the great State of Ohio, Governor Taft, for being here. I want to thank Tracey Miller for being so hospitable. I want to thank all who have come to witness this historic moment.

For those of you who have studied the history of our Government, you know most bills are signed at the White House. But I decided to sign this bill in one of the most important places in America, a public school.

We've got large challenges here in America. There's no greater challenge than to make sure that every child—and all of us on this stage mean every child, not just a few